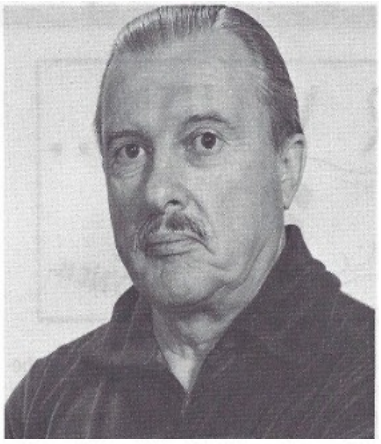
MMR_0074 Frank DuBarry



Master Model Railroader Number 74 is Frank R. Dubery, 59, of Chesley, Ontario, Canada. Frank and his wife, Gay, have two daughters and a young grandson who is obviously being brought up properly—he received his first train set last Christmas. Frank is employed by Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Ltd., as manager of a large insulation project at the Ontario Hydro Bruce Nuclear Generating Station.

Frank's interest in railways was first sparked in his birthplace, England, at the age of five when his father took him to various of the London terminals to see steam locomotives. He has been fascinated by them ever since. About this time, Frank and his younger brother received a Hornby tinplate "O" gauge clockwork train from their parents. New additions followed until an extensive system covered the floor of a spare bedroom. Eventually given exclusive use of the bedroom, the boys built tables and set the layout up permanently. When Frank was twelve years old, he and his brother built a complete "O" gauge layout, with hand-laid track and switches, in the garage. This layout endured, with changes, until 1939 when modeling had to take a back seat to the war effort.

In 1942 Frank joined the Royal Air Force, training as a pilot and navigator. He logged about 900 hours of flying, much of it in Canada instructing embryo pilots in navigation.

After the war Frank decided to try his luck in Canada and in 1946 he and his wife arrived in Toronto. He was soon back in the hobby, joining the "O" Gauge Model Railroad Club of Toronto in 1947 and the NMRA in 1948. His association with the Toronto Club reluctantly ended in 1973 when he was transferred to Chesley, over 100 miles from Toronto.

In 1972 Frank began building a 33-foot by 33 foot "O" scale layout in a barn at the Aberfoyle Flea Market near Guelph, Ontario. Constructed to the highest standards, with the assistance of a few modeling friends, the layout was completed in late 1973. Open to the public on Sundays from May to October, the layout has been viewed by over 12,000 visitors.

Frank has attended numerous Niagara Frontier Regional and several National Conventions, participating in many of the model contests. He was treasurer of his Toronto club from 1952 to 1958, and president from 1968 until 1973. He served as secretary of the Convention Committee for the 1953 Toronto National Convention and earned his MMR award with Achievement Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher and Author.

Frank says, "The NMRA has meant a great deal to me. With the aid of the Directory (and I am one who mourns its passing), I have visited modelers across the U.S. and Canada and have formed many lasting friendships. Conventions have enabled me to see the work of others, to get ideas and to pass on tips. Those who, for one reason or another, do not enjoy this greatest of hobbies, have my sympathy."